



PARA HILLS MODBURY CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH TEAM

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OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 9AM-2PM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

171 KESTERS ROAD,
PARA HILLS 5096

ST JOHN XXIII CHURCH

50 RESERVOIR RD,
HOPE VALLEY 5090

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY
CELEBRATED AT
10AM MASS**

BAPTISMS

BOOKINGS TO BE MADE
THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.

MARRIAGES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S
(PRIMARY) 8251 9500
CARIGNANE ST,
WYNN VALE 5127

GLEESON COLLEGE
(SECONDARY) 8282 6600
40-60 SURREY FARM DRIVE,
GOLDEN GROVE 5125

PARISH CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

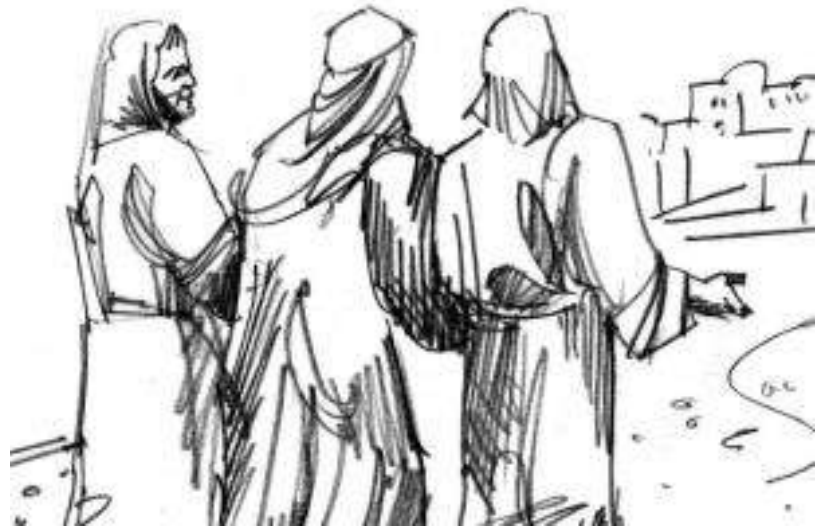
THERESE MEYERS: 0421 533 761
TASH SOUTER: 0422 270 655

26th April 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A - White

Bulletin Vol.17
Issue 14

**We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of this region.
Let us share and learn together for reconciliation and justice.**



Emmanuel (God with Us) on the Road to Emmaus

I read about a preacher who was given the honour of preaching at an important meeting. Just before he was to start his sermon he was seen to be looking anxiously around the congregation. The chairman whispered to him, "What's the problem? Is there someone here who's heard the sermon before?" "No," replied the preacher, "I was looking to see if there is anybody who hasn't heard it before!" How embarrassing! Similarly, at Easter, it's almost certain you've all heard a sermon based on what happened on the road to Emmaus.

Have you ever noticed that some of the saddest words in the English language begin with the letter D? For example: disappointment, doubt, disillusionment, defeat, despair, death etc. All of these are summed up in the words of Cleopas and his companion to the stranger who joined them on the Emmaus road in the Gospel Reading of today. They had left the dispirited and confused band of disciples with the events of Good Friday fresh in their memories. We can sympathize with their bewilderment. Two disciples are trudging along the road towards Emmaus, a village located seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. It was the day of the Resurrection, but these two wandering disciples did not grasp the entire situation. The cruel death of Jesus completely shook them. They were totally perplexed and confused and their hope was shattered. Disbelief has overpowered them. They are leaving Jerusalem and its disturbing events, because, for them, Jesus' death was an unmitigated tragedy. They were really shortsighted to look little beyond the death of Jesus into that experience of resurrection. The band of Jesus' followers was leaderless and was falling apart, with two of them already on their way home. The reports that Christ's tomb was empty did nothing to alter their thinking; it only confused them. Their entire world had come apart. The two despondent disciples summed up the situation very neatly, "we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." Notice the use of the past tense, "we had hoped," which strongly implies that this was not relevant to the present or they would not be so discouraged and distressed. **THE SADDEST DEATH OF ALL HAS TO BE THE DEATH OF HOPE.**

Cont.....

The Road to Emmaus may feel like any other post-Resurrection appearances, but its impact is far-reaching. That walk to Emmaus is a metaphor for our own life journey of faith. It stands as a symbol for the whole Christian life. Life, as depicted in the Scriptures, is a journey. We are called a 'pilgrim people,' always on the march to our heavenly home. Our journey of faith is a journey of learning and entering deeper into the mystery of the Risen Christ. It always should look ahead into that progressive future experience of eternity not the shortsightedness of this worldly existence. Gospels come to life as we imagine ourselves taking part in them. In this Gospel, with the two disciples walking on the road, we might picture ourselves represented, on our life's journey. We need, however, to realize that we are never alone in our life's journey. He is with us all the time and in all situations. But, as happened with the two disciples, we at times feel he has abandoned us, he has let us down, he no longer cares. We need to be ready to recognize him entering our lives so that we can respond appropriately to him. Our lives may be crowded with duties and customs and routines. In these days may feel isolated left alone or even disappointed and depressed with little room for hope. What can we do?

The Gospel goes on to tell of the next great step the two disciples took. They invited the stranger into their home. As he walked along with them he entered their lives where they were, namely, in their distress. That is the point where we too should go to meet Jesus. We can have him as a guest in our homes. Jesus always wants to meet us where we are, not where we would like to be or where we think we ought to be. He comes to us in ordinary life situations. When we read the Emmaus story what strikes us as amazing is not that the two disciples finally recognize Jesus, but that they fail to do so in the first place. We know the end of the story and wonder how the two disciples could fail to recognize such an obvious conclusion. Yet how often in our lives do we fail to recognize the presence of Christ? Jesus wants to communicate with us and he speaks to us and is truly present in the Scriptures. He is present and active in the very ordinary events of our lives. We need to just realize that and act accordingly.

Finally, "The Emmaus Journey" begins in blindness, gloom, disillusionment and despair. It ends with the warming of the disciples' hearts, the opening of their eyes, and their return to Jerusalem. Their encounter with the Risen Jesus had made them see the events in Jerusalem from a new perspective. Instead of looking at Jesus' death as the end of their aspirations, they now view it as the beginning of a new life in the Risen Christ. It begins with the shattering of an immature faith and ends with the disciples giving witness to a mature faith. Their story now is a new one; a story filled with life and hope. May be after this period of lock down and being absent from the sacramental celebrations in the church we should be able to come up with new and mature expressions of our own faith.



Readings for next Sunday, 26th April 2020

1st Reading	Act	2:14, 36-41
2nd Reading	1 Peter	2:20-25
Gospel	John	10:1-10

Saints/Feast Days Of the Week

27th	Apr	St Louis Grignon de Montfort
28th	Apr	St Peter Chanel
29th	Apr	St Catherine of Siena
30th	Apr	St Pius V
1st	May	St Joseph the Worker
2nd	May	St Athanasius

Our Community's Prayer Petitions

PLEASE NOTE: THE NAMES ON THE SICK LIST WILL REMAIN FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST: Please note that names can only be added to this list by immediate family, or the ill person themselves (for reasons of privacy).

Please Remember in your Prayers THOSE WHO ARE SICK, especially:

Pat Collins, Ruby Brokensha, Anne Van Der Arend, Gerry McConnell, Margaret Pitt, Patricia Kopf, Darcy Ridley, Paul Holmes, Father Peter Milburn, Maria Hand, Emma Gammon, Asher Caudle, David North, Elijah Neri, Wayne Collins, Antoinette Pascale, Marg Dolman, Charlotte Fussell, Phyllis Anthony, Reta Lockyer, John MacGrath, Ken Robinson, Graham Armstrong, Mary Redmond, Graham Speed, Marlen Piineda, David Truman, Bruce McAndie, Rosa Maria Santos, Sean Molloy, Betty Roper, Imperia De Ionno, Julie Reimann, Maddison Calleja, Janice Forrester, Jim Marlow, Gerry Canavan, Jayden Lee, Marie Boulton, Sr. Marleen Dewar OLSH, Kay Kennedy, Rita Robinson, Gary Lockyer, Yvonne Summers.

Recently Deceased

T. M Luka, Antonio (Tony) Pascale, Dudley Dolman



COVID-19 PHONE COUNSELLING NOW AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

In response to the health emergency, Centacare has increased capacity to provide telephone support for mental health concerns, family stress due to job loss, social isolation and other challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

People do not need a mental health care plan to access the short-term support. Rather, they can phone Centacare direct and book an appointment for a telephone counselling consultation.

To book an appointment please phone Centacare on 8215 6700.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Rowe 0437 062 302.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, you will show us the path of life.



Meet Your Fellow Parishioners

Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Much like two of the disciples of Jesus recognised him at the breaking of the bread, in today's Gospel, we need to find a new way of being, Christ with us on the way of Life. Church is where we go to be reminded that the world is full of other people, and that their needs and desires are every bit as urgent and real as ours, and not just those gathered in the sanctuary but of those around the world.

As we continue to live in isolation and keep social distancing, we can take heart from the second reading "The ransom that was paid to save us was the blood of Lamb, Jesus Christ. These past weeks have indeed seen us living through many challenges, economy slow down, people losing lives and livelihoods, companies shutdown, employees taking cut in pay, working from home, students unable attend regular classes, give exams or even unable to demonstrate their extra curricular activities in Schools. But the Christian message gives us hope for a better world and a better life. By reminding ourselves of our basic Christian values and turning back to them, our lives can become once more filled with joy and hope. When we once again place God at the centre of our lives and live as Jesus taught us, we can arise from the desolation that has come upon the earth, by living our lives more simply, caring for others and our surroundings.

Worship has always been a time when one would have felt oneself turned towards others. We have been reassured by the instances of how Christians all over the world, who could not worship together, either because of ailment, distress or suppression by the state have found ways to be in the church without being physically together. This is overwhelmingly encouraging.

It has been humbling to see the big-heartedness of the healthcare workers, Doctors, cleaners, supermarkets for their hard work in this time of need, risking their lives to get us going through tough times. We don't need the big cars and the extravagant homes and holidays to have a good life. If we use only what we need and share the rest with others, we will all survive and in following Christ's path we can bring the Kingdom of God to shine brightly on the other side of this pandemic outbreak.

Let's pour our hearts out in prayers that Christ the Redeemer through his precious blood may heal the earth and guide us in his wisdom to the other side of the Covid 19 crisis.

Joseph Selvan

Anzac Day



God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Bulletin

To help to keep you up to date with developments the Parish Bulletin will continue to be published weekly and posted online on the Parish Website <http://paramodcath.com.au>

If you would like to receive the bulletin via email please contact us at bulletin@paramodcath.com.au

Bulletin Articles

We would like to publish some stories from our parishioners about how this time of church closures and isolation from our parish community is affecting you and your faith.

If you have a story to share please email it in to bulletin@paramodcath.com.au



*Congratulations
Jill & Leith Brokensha
celebrating their
40th Wedding Anniversary.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL/MAY BABIES

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 26th Apr | Grace Healey |
| 29th Apr | Fr Peter Milburn,
David Zagari |
| 30th Apr | Amanda North |
| 1st May | Josie McGrath |
| 2nd May | Hannah Marie Craig |



Collections

We would like to thank all our parishioners who so generously support our Priests and Parish. We are all going through some difficult times and the parish requires your continuous support so that we are able to go on as the bills keep coming in. If you can help in any way it is very much appreciated.

If you would like to contribute online please visit our website paramodcath.com.au and use the link to make your contributions to both the presbytery fund (1st collection) and to the parish (2nd collection).

Once you click the link

- Choose the parish. Scroll down and choose Para Hills /Modbury and click submit.
- Once you have done this please make sure that you have filled in all the required fields.
- Choose first collection from the payment type for presbytery collection.
- Choose "general" at the payment type if you are making a donation for the second collection.
- *Please fill in your planned giving number in the space provided so that we will know from whom the debit comes.
- Click next
- Enter verification code
- Click next
- You will have the option to print or email a receipt for your records
- Click finish

Contributions can also be dropped off at the Parish Office using the mail slot next to the office door. Please mark envelopes clearly as 1st or 2nd collection.

For those who are unable to come to the Parish Office Contributions can also be dropped off at Holy Trinity Church on Sundays 10am - 11am



Bottle Collection at Holy Trinity

With to the recent passing of Dudley Dolman, who organised the collection of recyclable bottles and cans at Holy Trinity, we are looking for people who would be able to help in this role.

If you are able to help sort the bottles and cans and to take them to the recycling centre or would like some more information about this role, please contact the Parish Office.

Due to the large amount of work and the very small return (1¢ each) we are no longer able to accept wine bottles, jam jars and pickle jars, these need to be placed in your own home recycling (yellow) bin. We ask that you bring only recyclable bottles and cans that have a 10¢ refund.

We thank all those who have supported us by bringing their bottles and cans for recycling and hope that you will continue to do this.



Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2020 Lenten appeal.
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
 #projectcompassion
 1800 024 413

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes can be returned to the Parish Office during office hours.

Masses Online & On Television

We will continue to stream weekend Masses on our YouTube channel.

Please visit our parish website for the link or go to youtube.com and search for Para Hills Modbury Catholic Parish To find our channel.

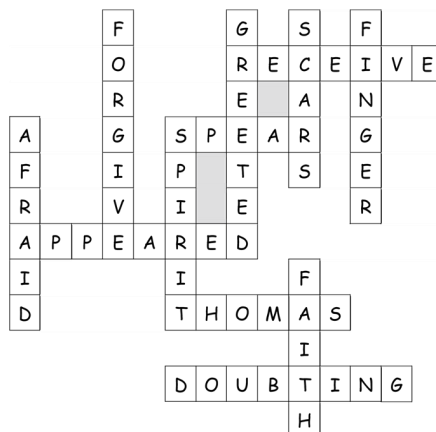
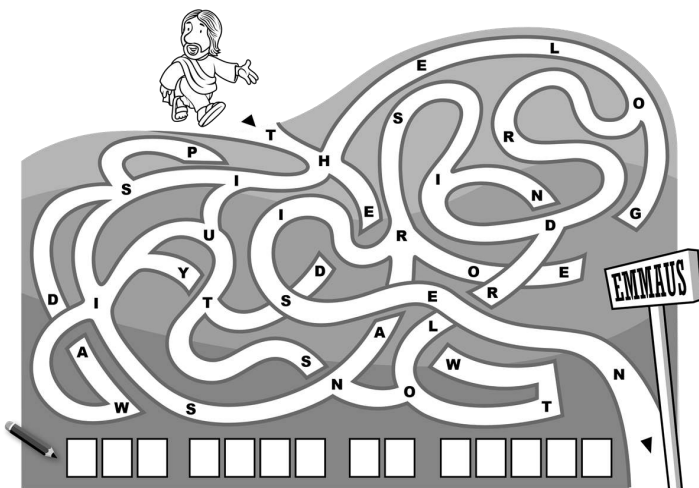
Also visit the Archdiocese website for links to information, prayers and other streamed Masses.

Sunday Mass is also screened on Channel 10 at 6am every Sunday morning. .

Kids Corner

Lk 24:13-35

As you pass through the letters along the correct path, write them down in the boxes below to discover what the disciples learned at Emmaus.



Last weeks crossword solution